

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 10972 141819Z  
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13  
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /094 W  
-----056720 141832Z /75

P R 141802Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9395  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USNATO  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

S E C R E T BONN 10972

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW  
SUBJECT: MBFR: THE EASTERN COUNTERPROPOSAL

REF: STATE 149009 DTG 122238Z JUNE 78

WE PASSED INITIAL US VIEWS ON THE EASTERN COUNTERPRO-  
POSAL (REFTEL) TO FOREIGN OFFICE MBFR DIRECTOR DR.  
RUECKRIEGEL ON JUNE 13. HE FOCUSED IMMEDIATELY ON OUR  
POINT THAT THE EASTERN COUNTERPROPOSAL MOVES TOWARDS  
THE WESTERN POSITION ON SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES OF SUB-  
STANCE (PARA 2, REFTEL). HE SAID THERE WAS SKEPTICISM  
ON THIS SCORE BOTH IN BONN AND VIENNA, IN PART BECAUSE  
THE EAST HAS SO FAR FAILED TO ELABORATE ON ITS PROPOSAL.

DR. RUECKRIEGEL GRANTED THAT THE EAST HAS ADJUSTED ITS  
POSITION ON SOME POINTS (ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS), BUT  
ON OTHERS MOVEMENT WAS MORE APPARENT THAN REAL. THE  
EASTERN CONCEPT OF A "COMMON CEILING", FOR EXAMPLE,  
CONTINUED TO BE A RECIPE FOR NATIONAL LIMITATIONS.

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DR. RUECKRIEGEL ALSO NOTED THE CONNECTION THAT HAS BEEN  
ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE EASTERN COUNTERPROPOSAL AND  
ACCEPTANCE OF THE EASTERN DATA BASE. HE SAID THIS  
COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED. ONE ELEMENT OF FUTURE WESTERN  
STRATEGY SHOULD BE TO DRIVE A FIRM WEDGE BETWEEN THE  
DATA DISCUSSION AND THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ELEMENTS OF

THE REDUCTION PACKAGE.

DURING THE ABOVE CONVERSATION DR. RUECKRIEGEL SAID THE FRG WOULD WELCOME THE BILATERAL PROPOSED REFTTEL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY MADE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER RUTH'S PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH AND HOLD THE US-FRG BILATERAL ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 26.

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS OF JUNE 14 HAVE ALSO CARRIED ARTICLES REPORTING THE US ASSESSMENT OF THE COUNTERPROPOSAL. OUR FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES TELL US THAT ONE IN PARTICULAR FROM THE BONN GENERAL ANZEIGER (GA) CAUGHT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S ATTENTION. IT REPORTS A STATEMENT FROM AN UNNAMED US GOVERNMENT SOURCE THAT THE COUNTERPROPOSAL WAS A "BASIS FOR REAL NEGOTIATIONS AFTER LONG STAGNATION".

THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS ASKED US FOR EITHER A TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT OR SOME CLARIFICATION OF ITS MEANING AND CONTEXT. WE UNDERSTAND THIS REQUEST ORIGINATED WITH SCHMIDT HIMSELF BUT SO FAR WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SOURCES. ACTION

REQUESTED: A TEXT OF THE ABOVE STATEMENT OR SOME BACKGROUND AS TO ITS MEANING OR CONTEXT THAT WE COULD OFFER THE GERMANS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISARMAMENT, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Draft Date:** 14 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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